Gund Gallery Faculty Seminar 2015

Course Description and Syllabus:
Since its dedication in the fall of 2011, it has been the Gund Gallery’s mission to celebrate art as a critical centerpiece of Kenyon’s liberal arts mission and the community by championing the best art and artists of the 20th and 21st centuries via an active exhibition schedule, expanding permanent collection, and formal and informal learning experiences. To encourage the conceptualization of creative interdisciplinary and liberal arts-inspired curricular connections and projects aligned with the Gund Gallery’s mission and goals, tenured and tenure-track professors and instructors on long-term contracts from across all the college’s disciplines are eligible to participate in the biennial faculty seminar supported in 2015 by the Smart Family Foundation. Over casual dinner discussions based on short articles and essays, topics presented by guest experts and experiences gained from focused visits to other art museums, seminar participants will have the opportunity to consider contemporary curatorial practices and museum issues, including but not limited to: the history of the modern museum, visitor motivations and expectations, learning and engagement through objects and exhibitions, contemporary curatorial practices and trends, intersection of museum and higher education history, Visual Thinking Strategies and interpretation, contemporary art in encyclopedic museums, visual literacy, collecting and collections management, the public trust and collections ethics, curating from collections, collaboration and interdisciplinarity, creativity and innovation, and other topics.

All sessions are mandatory and meet over dinners catered by the museum on Wednesdays from 7:00-10:00 PM. Readings and guests are subject to change.

September 23: First meeting and dinner discussion
Topics: Introductions, rise of the modern museum, major themes
Readings:

**October 7:** Dinner discussion with special guest: **Dr. Lauren Lessing,** Mirken Curator of Education, Colby College Museum of Art  
**Topics:** Object-based learning, museum visitor motivations, visual culture/visual literacy  
**Readings:**  


**Assorted news clippings about collection deaccession ethics:** Detroit, Fisk, Randolph, etc.

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**October 21:** Dinner discussion with special guest: **Dr. Athena Hadji,** History of Art, Hellenic Open University (on leave 2015-2016) and NEON Foundation/Whitechapel Gallery Emerging Curator Award (London)  
**Topics:** Contemporary curating, curatorial trends  
**Readings:**  

October 28: Dinner discussion with special guest: Dr. Joy Sperling, Professor of Art History and Visual Culture, Denison University and guest co-curator of Gund Gallery’s winter/spring 2015 exhibition entitled Tchotchke: Mass-produced sentimental objects in contemporary art

Topics: 20th century history of curating, the role of the connoisseur, professionalization of museum practice

Reading:


November 4: Dinner discussion with special guest: Dr. Denise Birkhofer, Ellen Johnson ’33 Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College

Topics: Collecting and collections management, curating from collections, contemporary art in the encyclopedic museum

Readings:

Chris Dorsett, “Exhibitions and Their Prerequisites, p. 77-87.

Howard Fox, ”The Right to Be Wrong,” p. 15-28.

November 11: Dinner discussion with special guests: Jessica Hunter-Larsen, Curator, InterDisciplinary Experimental Arts (IDEA) Program, Colorado College
Dr. Carolyn Allmendinger, Director of Academic Programs, Ackland Art Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill

Topics: The exhibition as learning method and pedagogical tool, connections across disciplines, collaboration

Readings:


**November 21-22:** Field Trip to Cleveland
Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College, Cleveland Museum of Art, MOCA

**December 2:** Dinner discussion with special guests: Dr. Andria Derstine, John G.W. Cowles Director, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College
- **Topics:** The 21st century academic museum in the liberal arts institution, creativity and innovation, trends and patterns
- **Readings:**

  Assorted museum and higher education trend reports.

**December 12-13:** Field Trip to Pittsburgh

**Summary of Faculty Responsibilities:**
- Commitment to attendance and full preparation for all seminar sessions, discussions and field trips.

**Summary of Gund Gallery Responsibilities:**
- Organize and manage the seminar’s syllabus and course schedule; ensuring readings, materials, guest experts and other course elements are planned, announced and accessible to seminar participants.
- Provide ongoing and timely communications with and among all seminar participants.
- Distribute and clearly discuss exhibition proposal guidelines and process.